THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This is my impression. The University has undertaken that and my impression is they would also provide sufficient facility.

Elementary school teachers

* 140 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any increment papers of Panchayat Board Elementary School teachers of Nannilam taluk are pending with the Regional Inspector of Local Boards, Tanjore, for sanction;

(*b*) if so, the number of such papers pending with the Regional Inspector of Local Boards; and

(*c*) when they will be sanctioned?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : As a rule, increments of these teachers are delayed and in many cases not at all paid. Will the Government consider a new set-up by which the regular Educational Officers of the Department could sanction the increments automatically and the local board would simply pay that amount?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There are two aspects, management and inspection. It is the management that is giving increment. I do not know whether we can saddle this work on the Education Department.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it not a fact that in the matter of increments to teachers in aided elementary schools, the Deputy Inspector of Schools sanctions the increment? Just like that, will the Government think of such a step or an alternative step by which the Educational Officers of the Department can sanction the increments and the Panchayat Board can simply pay them, in view of the fact that at present the increments due to teachers are being delayed very much?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member may be aware of the fact that there is going to be a change of management when the Panchayat Union Council comes into existence. I am sure all matters will be looked into at that stage.

Welfare of the blind

* 141 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the schemes instituted by the Government for the welfare of the blind in the State;

(*b*) the training centres, if any, started for the adult blind and the number of trained teachers available at present; and

(*c*) the aid or assistance, if any, given to the trained teachers to start welfare institutions or schools for the blind in various parts of the State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No scheme for the "Welfare of the Blind" in general has been instituted by Government in the Education Department.

(*b*) No training centre for the adult blind has been started by Government. As regards the number of teachers available, there are at present about 30 qualified teachers in all the Schools for the Blind.

(*c*) The trained teachers have not been given any aid or assistance for the purpose of starting Welfare Institutions or Schools for the Blind. The teachers have been trained with a view to their absorption in the existing Schools for the Blind.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether Government have formulated any schemes for opening more schools for handicapped children and, if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There is no provision in the Second Plan. We will have to consider what schemes should be taken up in the Third Plan period.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister tell us what facilities are provided by the State to provide employment in Government service for the blind and other handicapped persons who are otherwise qualified?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I know some of them get placings in the various commercial firms. I do not know whether it will be possible to employ these people, blind and other handicapped people, in Government service.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government look into the whole question and consider the desirability of reserving some suitable posts in Government service for these blind people as I learn from the results of the School for the Blind at Poonamalle that some pupils have passed S.S L.C. with great credit?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The difficulty is whether they could be fitted in Government service. I think it would not be possible for Government to create special facilities for these people not only to get training but also to work.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : May I know whether the rules with regard to medical fitness for entry into Government service cannot be relaxed in the case of these and other handicapped candidates?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : "Handicapped" is a very comprehensive term. We are here concerned with blind men. I am not quite sure whether it would be possible to relax the rules in their case for entry into Government service.